

TWIN CITY ATARI INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER

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November 1982

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President Peter Asch	825-1242	Vice President Steve Crowley	944-6399
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OCTOBER MEETING NOTES

The Oct. meeting was held one week earlier than the usual last Sunday of the month, due to ghosts and goblins.

The meeting was opened with note of a new rule that people should refrain from smoking at the meetings since, with the number of people now attending meetings, the air can become quite unpleasant for those not wishing to smoke.

Also the membership was asked to return the folding chairs to the rack from where they are taken by those who use them.

Atari is now the tail that is wagging the dog for Warner communications, who bought Atari sometime back during the PONG days. That is good news for Atari owners, who hope that as the Atari becomes more well known, it will be recognised as more than a match for that other fruit being touted as a better machine.

Along with the news of a great many Ataris being sold, is the rumor that Atari prices will be dropping even further (with the serious competition of the VIC 64). The 800 with 48K RAM is apparently now being sold for the same price as it was previously going for with 16K. Also the rumor mill is promising the introduction soon of the 600 and 1000, the 600 being a 400 with a good keyboard, the 1000 being something else that will compete in the business market.

Memory prices are also dropping, Intek boards are now at \$175 for the 48K and 90 for the 32K.

The cassette of the month should be available at the next meeting, see the library column for info on who to contact to get it.

There will be a MECC conference at the Lemington Hotel on Dec. 1&2 which will be open to the public.

The education subgroup had its first meeting, contact Bill Nordstrom 475-1475 if you are interested in future meetings.

A special Adventure subgroup will be chaired by Phil Siefert, call 448-7042 if interested.

Will Dotson, 437-9883, would like to start an Investment Analysis group.

The Swap Meet was held before the meeting, and it was requested that swap meets be held more often; perhaps once every 3 months or at least every 6 months.

A recommendation was made to buy more books for the literature library using club funds.

FORTH Follies

by
R.D. Jenson

Look at the Minnesota Micro FORTH article in this newsletter for some exciting information. My thanks to all the people who attended their first meeting. Look here for further developments.

I recently received the public domain FORTH 1.4 (available from the library). It has some good points and some bad points.

First the good points.

- 1) It's FREE
- 2) It includes a FIG kernal with a lot of extension for the ATARI.
- 3) It includes the Ragsdale assembler.
- 4) Player missile words

The Bad points

- 1) No documentation
- 2) No support (not really a problem when compared to the support offered by the other companies)
- 3) The author apparently loves HEX the whole package is written for using HEX.

I haven't tried to write anything of importance, due to the use of the standard FIG editor. The things I did use worked as planned. For the beginner it may be the way to get into FORTH until something better for the buck comes along.

Anyone with FORTH questions please send them to me so I can attempt to get an answer for you. (Actually I could use some ideas for this column) Send them to the editor or use the procedure outlined last month and upload them into the file FORTH.xxx where xxx are your initials.

Analog magazine has offered special club discounts to our members. \$10.00 per year special subscription price. Contact Mike Doleman for more details.

FROM THE EDITOR
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As you can see from this issue, we are now accepting paid advertizements to help offset our printing costs. The going rate is \$25.00 for a full page and \$15.00 for half pages. Just send me a black and white of your ad (8x11 for full page) and a check made out to TAIG. Remember that I must now receive articles and ads by the 5th of the month to meet the printers' deadline of the 10th.

DISK ARCHIVING
by TRB

Couldn't find any good LARKS material this month so, on the more serious side, I thought I would include a reprint from the section of my DISKEDIT documentation on disk archiving to start off a possible series of disk tutorials. (I got talked into presenting a DISK archiving tutorial to the SPACE group this month; hence the reprint.) Keep in mind that other programs (DISKASM and DISK Detective to name two) will perform many of the functions of DISKEDIT, so just replace any references to DISKEDIT in this article with your favorite disk editor and you are all set. Next month, I will go into more detail in how the data is stored on the disk, but for now here is a brief overview.

....Although there are many schemes on the market to copy protect disks, there is no unbreakable copy protection mechanism available for ATARI disks because the computer always has to be able to read sector 1 on a disk and this will tell the computer what to do next. So with sufficient patience any disk can be backed up.

The most common scheme is to format a disk initially with bad sectors and then have the boot program check to insure that these sectors are indeed bad (remember those disks that go clunk?). These checks are easy to find by disassembling the program and then simulating a bad check by editing the code. In the example below, assume that we have already determined that sector 258 is bad by doing a disk map.

Original Source	Modified Source
LDA \$02	LDA \$02
STA \$030A	STA \$030A
LDA \$02	LDA \$86
STA \$030B	STA \$0303
JSR \$E453	NOP,NOP,TAY

Putting a negative number (\$86) into location \$303, the accumulator, and the Y register and NOPing out the JSR to the DISKIO routines will allow most programs to be backed up, and without those noisy sector checks. You can create bad sectors by slowing your disk speed down prior to writing a sector, but I don't recommend this procedure. If you are patient and the problem is just a bad sector check, you will find it.

Other things to keep in mind include: 1) the sequence of sectors in the original disk may allow faster read-in; hence you may need to null out timing checks, 2) multiple sectors with the same number may exist (i.e. the second time you read sector 17, you may get different data than the first time); hence you will have to be careful copying the two sectors surrounding bad (missing) sectors, and 3) don't forget that the program may check itself to see if you modified it.

In summary, the sequence of steps you must take to backup a disk include: 1) map the disk to find data and bad sector locations, 2) copy all sectors with data to a blank disk, 3) look at sector 1 and determine how many sectors are loaded and where in memory they are stored, 4) find and fix any bad sector checks by viewing sectors, disassembling, editing, and writing, and 5) cross your fingers and try booting the disk. Don't be afraid to go in and modify sections of code in DISKEDIT for special backup requirements you may have. By putting a loop in the copy routine code (4000-5000), you could copy all odd numbered sectors from on disk to another. By placing calls to the BOOLEAN routine in a loop, you could XOR entire sections of code together (a common data scrambling technique). You should never find yourself doing something repetitive with DISKEDIT.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The following programs have been put into this months's disk, # 13.

TANKWAR.OBJ	SEARCH AND DESTROY
MERRYCHR	A LITTLE HOLIDAY SPIRIT
LOGO	ANOTHER ATARI LOGO
FUNCTION	YOU GUESS THE FUNCTION
STARWARS.MUS	I LIKE TO HEAR MUSIC
XMASTREE	DIDN'T WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR
INVENTRY	INVENTORY DATABASE
HOMELoAN	HOW MUCH IS THE LoAN COSTING
DECIDUMP	OPPOSED TO A HEXDUMP
BIORYTHM	BIORYTHM DIFFERENT FROM BIOCHART
PMDEMO	PLAYER MISSILE DEMO
STOPSOUN	STOP THE SOUND YOU RECOGNIZE
STARSHIP	PRESS THE SPACE BAR
NUMBERS	RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR
SCEEN	A SCENE BUILDER

The tankwar game mentioned above is for disks only! It must be loaded in by using the Binary Load File (L) command from DOS. All the other programs will be on cassette for this month (that is if I have enough room. I will start with the programs listed first). I plan on having about 40 cassettes at the meeting. There will be no past issues, like we have for the disks because of the amount of time involved in recording these tapes. The cassettes will go for \$4.00.

I would also like to point out that I have a new assistant in the library. His name is Wayne Vasel. He will be handling the orders for individual programs and distribution of said programs at the meetings. From now on, if you have some programs you want, then send your request to Wayne Vasel, 12114 Crooked Lake Blvd., Coon Rapids, MN 55433. Please do not send your requests to me.

That wraps it up for this month. I will see you at the meeting.

CHILDREN WILL PLAY
by Phil Seifert

Christmas must be getting closer. A lot of programs are coming out now, or are being announced. My Zork III is finally in some stores. I really don't know why I want it now, I am still stuck in Zork I. What can you say about the best text adventures around.

I noticed in the Nov. Computer! there were a couple of pages of ads for cartridges that were not from Atari. Here is a list of them.

FAR PROTECTOR	\$60 16K EPYX
MINER 2049ER	\$50 16K BIG FIVE
SPEEDWAY BLAST	\$40 16K IDSI
DEADLY DUCK	??? ??? SIRIUS
DELUXE INVADERS	\$40 16K ROKLAN
FAST EDDIE	??? ??? SIRIUS
GORF	\$45 16K ROKLAN
FISHES	\$40 16K EPYX
WORM WAR I	??? ??? SIRIUS
EMBARGO	\$45 8K GEBELLI
PLATTERMANIA	\$40 16K EPYX
KRAZY KRITTERS	\$50 8K K-BYTE
CRYPT OF THE UNDEAD	\$50 ??? EPYX
FIREBIRD	\$40 4K GEBELLI
SOLDIERS OF SORCERY	\$60 16K EPYX
BEANY BOPPER	??? ??? SIRIUS
ALIEN GARDEN	\$40 16K EPYX
POOL 400	\$40 16K IDSI
KRAZY ANTIKS	\$50 8K K-BYTE
K-STAR PATROL	\$50 8K K-BYTE
WIZARD OF WOR	\$45 16K ROKLAN

Without having seen them, I really can't recommend any of them. However, I am planning on getting Soldiers of Sorcery, Gorf and Miner 2049ER. The only regret I have is that all the cartridges are so expensive, otherwise I would get all of them except for the ones from Gebelli (I do not like the software Gebelli has put out to date).

For those of you with any previous version of Protector by Mike Potter. There is yet another one out called Protector II. It is a much better implementation of the game. I really wish that Synapse would offer a markdown if you have one of the early ones. It is really silly that you have to pay out another \$34.95 for a cleaner and better version of the same game! It runs on a disk with 32k. I don't know if they are planning on a cassettes version yet.

Well, I was one of the silly people who put out the money for the new Protector. But, if I didn't do that, I might have put it out for another program from Synapse called Picnic Paranoia. You are having a picnic and you have just finished getting the tables all set with your food. You notice out of the corner of your eye that some ants are coming. Grabbing the fly swatter, you chase after the filthy critters. While you are doing this, more ants come out and literally carry your food off the table. The ants never stop coming. Then to make matters worse, you found a wasp nest. Now you've done it, that wasp is chasing you around. Don't get stung! This is really a very interesting game. It is going for \$34.95 on disk and I think it is a 32k program but don't quote me on it.

I would like to thank all the people who managed to sign up for the adventure special interest group. What I would like them to do is first, sign up again, I lost the sheet. Second would be to start making maps, hint sheets, and other various adventure aids in any adventure they have worked on. I would like to be able to give these to other lost souls that request them. There is no hurry and I really don't want you to work too hard. If it is going to interfere with your school work, job, or your having fun with the computer too much, then don't. But it would be nice if I can find my way out of Zork I. Those hint sheets, if you make them, should not give answers outright. Make people think about what they are doing, but don't be as vague as the Adventure International hint books okay?

TAIG Honor Roll

Apple Panic	47,630 Mark Nelson
Asteroids	350,000 Mark Nelson
Caverns of Mars	133,500 Josh Downham
Jawbreaker I	49,510 Liz Smoliak
Jawbreaker II	60,480 Brian Moore
Krazy Shoot-out	35,740 Phil Seifert
Missile Command	199,755 Tom Larson
Pac Man (cherry)	147,650 Josh Downham
Pac Man (key)	228,490 Dave Schultz
Preppie	25,200 Dave Schultz
Shooting Arcade	43,520 Phil Seifert
Threshold	212,100 Phil Seifert
Star Raiders Star Commanders Class 1	
Vint Knechtges	
Brian Moore	
John Ward	

I am sorry Mr. Smoliak. I lost the paper with the new high score for Jawbreaker I. All I remember is that it was over 50,000. Please give it to me again at the next meeting. That wraps it up for this month. I will see you at the meeting.

MINNESOTA MICRO FORTH
by Doug Gihl

The first informal meeting of the FORTH interest group was held on Oct. 28th. TAIG. members who signed a FORTH interest sheet at one of the earlier TAIG meetings were contacted. The main topic of discussion was the general lack of experienced people in this area. A large number of us have invested in some of the newer and more expensive FORTHS. We have found that learning FORTH, as with anything, is difficult without someone experienced to help us along. Arrangements are being made for classes to be held in the near future. Ideas for a group project were put forth with a general text editor and a terminal program being the most likely. The next meeting of Minnesota Micro FORTH will be at the Blaine library at 707 Hwy 10 Blaine. The meeting starts at 7.00 PM. on Nov. 18th. For more information on this group contact me, Doug Gihl at 571-7188.

 ANNOUNCEMENT

ATARI SOFTWARE 25-30% OFF

DISKETTES: \$1.90/EA >1, \$1.80/EA >25, \$1.75/EA >50

SOFT UNLIMITED now carries disks and other name brand software as well as user written software. To give rock bottom prices on these products, a mail order policy has been set up on everything but the disks. To obtain software, mail in a check for the product(s) needed (or you can give me the check at the TAIG or SPACE meetings). Approximately once a week I will place an order with Soft Unlimited's distributor. When I receive the order I will notify you so that you can pick up the software, or I will package and mail the product to you if you include \$1.00 shipping with your order. Outstate residents must include shipping costs. TAIG and SPACE members may check with me and pick up their orders at the next meeting. I wouldn't expect more than a 2 week delay between the time you order a product and the time you receive it. This time is shortened if you pick up the order directly. Disks will be available at the user group meetings (I will stock them) and may be picked up at my home for those of you in dire need. (Yes, the disks do appear to have good back sides too. I have only seen a couple disks that took several passes to format on the back side-the front sides have all worked 100%). The disks are warranted SSSD generic (overstock) disks. Along with the disks, I will be selling Flip-Files for \$20.00, color coded storage systems for \$15.00, and other disk related items. These are all priced at 30-35% off retail, so they can only be picked up at my home or the meetings. Call or write for listings of available programs. The following are some sample pricings:

MFG	SOFTWARE TITLE	RETAIL	SU PRICE
=====	=====	=====	=====
QS:	ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THEIVES	32.95	23.50
BR:	APPLE PANIC (CASS)	29.95	21.00
AU:	CRUSH CRUMBLE AND CHOMP	29.95	21.00
SI:	CYCLOD	29.95	21.00
AR:	CYPHER BOWL	49.95	35.00
ON:	FROGGER	34.95	25.00
DA:	PAINT	39.95	28.00
QS:	QS FORTH	79.95	56.00

Mail check or money order to:

SOFT UNLIMITED
 3546 PILGRIM LANE
 PLYMOUTH, MINN. 55441
 (612)-542-1027 (evenings)

NOTE TO DISKEDIT OWNERS

An updated version of DISKEDIT was released 10/15/82 with improved documentation on disk backup. The new version features single key entry, a disk formatter option, restart control for disk mapping, an additional mapping code, and error free operation (2 bugs were found in the original DISKEDIT). The update is available to registered DISKEDIT users for \$5.00. The next release will be in early 1983. This release will include an auto-search option (i.e. tell what sectors include a JSR \$E453), a mass-calculate option (i.e. EOR program data from \$700-\$940 with \$500-\$740 and store it in \$B00-\$D40), and whatever else comes up.

Tired of constantly swapping disks while you copy using a single drive? Do you two drive owners want to copy disk to disk even faster (and with verify)?

Stumped over trying to back up boot disks? Want to stop the noisy load caused by bad sectors? Or do you want to learn all about disk storage and I/O?

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- * Fast Disk Mapper
- * Single/Multiple Drive Capability
- * Hex/Dec & Boolean Calculator
- * Selectable Printer Output
- * >75% Assembly code for speed
- * ASCII, Hex, and Dec. Input Options
- * Single Key Entry
- * Format Option
- * Listable/req. 24K

Introductory priced for TAIG readers at \$22.00 (plus \$1.00 for shipping) foriegn orders add \$3.00.

TAIG MEMBERSHIP ROSTER (10/24/82)

Abrams	Ron		Germann	Joseph	(507)354-3856
Ahlstrom	Mark	571-7791	Gihl	Doug	571-4436
Asch	Peter	825-1242	Glish	James	894-7590
Aubitz	Ed	881-1471	Grace	Thomas G.	941-1947
Barrowclough	Mike	935-6020	Gray	Jim	920-5771
Batts	Don	941-7529	Gustafson	Mike	588-0269
Beck	John A.	(515)424-3600	Hamilton	Roger	935-3865
Becker	Bob	823-0120	Hansell	Flint	588-3196
Behnke	John	459-6655	Hanson	David	432-7542
Benson	Wayne L.	938-7695	Hanson	Randall	427-7415
Bolin	Stan	433-2781	Hanson	Roger A.	521-8754
Bonetti	William	452-3153	Harsh	Dale	533-3458
Bowman	Dean	888-3329	Harvey	Scott	941-4362
Boyce	William	646-1092	Havelak	Ronald J.	572-1812
Bradley	Charles	888-7437	Hedman	Curtis	698-4588
Brandt	Gerald	894-2163	Heenan	Tom	922-7490
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Darveaux	Gary	546-3222	Johannes	Richard	824-8497
Datschefschi	Bette	574-9419	Johnson	Richard O.	521-0245
Davis	James	545-2469	Johnson	Bob	423-1785
Davis	Blake	226-2119	Johnston	Michael G.	572-9090
DeLosse	Terry	772-1980	Johnstone	Don	644-1522
Deye	Don	689-1411	Johnson	Paul	894-6692
Diana	Mart	435-5906	Johnson	Perry D.	934-2576
Doleman	Mike	861-1893	Johnson	James F.	777-1776
Dotson	Will	437-9883	Jonson	William C.	432-6203
Downham	Joan	827-2266	Joseph	Howard	929-8201
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Dunkle	Robert S.	739-4201	Kenny	Steve	888-5968
Dwyer	Mike	888-5013	Kieber	Jan	435-6502
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Evermon	Fred	559-5857	Knechtges II	Vinton W.	920-4325
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Forehand	Scott	941-5854	LaMothe	Rick	937-2971
Gametown	Computer		Landsman	Gordon	546-5234

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LeDuc	Bill	941-4219	Schultz	Ron	
Lentz	C. Bruce	473-9618	Schultz	John A.	894-2482
Levitt	Merle	545-1343	Schulz	James	537-5442
Lindblad	Dale	757-7688	Siefert	Phil	448-7042
Lindblad	David A.	771-0852	Simonson	Leroy	937-2811
Lindmeyer	Jerry	645-7152	Simonson	Mark	724-4354
Lundin	Douglas H.	448-5378	Skelly	John	922-4284
Maikke	August	881-4073	Sletton	Gary	825-5836
Malin	Shlomo	644-0792	Smith	Joseph W.	432-6295
Maloney	Jim	699-4018	Smoliak	Rod	536-0120
Manning	Raymond J.	455-5123	Stacherski	Raymond	753-1659
Marcy	Larry		Stanley	John L.	724-0066
Marquardt	Jerry	881-6955	Steinberg	Michael J.	566-5577
Martin	Peter	636-9121	Stenshoel	Chuck	432-5748
Martin	Nancy	770-8576	Stockburger	Mark	455-5893
McDaniel	Michael	447-8826	Suleski	Peter F.	454-3829
McDaniel	John	533-7582	Sussman	Scott	544-2112
Middleton	Allen	698-7637	Sutton	Stuart	869-9047
Mikkola	Edsel	537-6893	Svenson	Fred	432-9373
Miller	Randy L.	483-3029	Svoboda	Franklin	587-5585
Milligan	Dan	447-6105	Syvertsen	Roger	(218)829-3692
Mizuno	Bruce	429-9581	Tallaksen	John M.	872-9839
Mojica	Mike	546-1857	Taraldson	Dave	729-7181
Moore	Walter	926-8980	Thompson	Allan W.	644-1492
Murphy	James	483-2184	Thul	Steve	488-6979
Nelson	Jack	424-2627	Tiggemann	Ernest	462-4435
Nelson	Mark D.	869-2077	Timm	Norbert	544-9285
Neuman	Mark	894-1535	Timo	Steven	786-6889
Niles	John H.	522-5878	Tipton	Mike	536-8188
Noonan	Dana	869-5544	Tolstrad	Tom	425-9409
Nordstrom	Bill	475-1475	Toops	George	796-5221
Norling	David	646-8630	Tourville	Michael	770-2369
O'Neill	Sr. Sharon	473-3675	Towey	Michael M.	439-0797
Oberg	Michael	561-5551	Turgeon	Neil	884-3471
Oberts	Steven	546-7472	Tuttle	John	(218)283-4747
Owens	Bill	771-4071	Tuttle	Steve	786-6226
P.	Harold	724-5247	Urabe	Stephan L.	881-3895
Paasonen	Jouni	781-7043	Vasel	Wayne	427-7922
Panton	Dale	729-5152	Villars	Gerald	435-2193
Patraz	Victor K.	699-1582	Vitez	Victor R.	831-5392
Peterson	Bert	432-0653	Voss	Ray & Lois	927-0448
Phillips	Pat	633-9532	Walsh	Tom	445-5468
Plumb	David	827-4392	Walsh	Anthony R.	742-5968
Pobiel	Joseph	332-5743	Ward	John W.	
Porter	Mike	722-1421	Weinberg	Eric	920-8885
Raykowski	Terry	738-1432	Weisbrod	Adam	546-3927
Rembolt	David L.	890-8716	Welch	Lance D.	427-2312
Reuter	Randy	925-9826	Wenell	Duane R.	929-8045
Rice	Mike	938-5895	Werner	Jay C.	459-5861
Rogers	Ethan	872-4919	West	Larry	929-8704
Rouse	W. Bradley	823-6055	Whitcomb	Roger	735-4293
Russell	Elden H.	483-1393	Winterle	Brad	739-5746
Russell	Ralph	881-5952	Young	David A.	544-2659
Ruud	Orville	888-1961	Zurawski	James W.	559-3912
Rye	Ralph	722-0984			



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Next TAIG Meeting:
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